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LETTER DATED 20 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith an information bulletin showing the impact that the sanctions imposed on Iraq have had on the death rates for children and the elderly.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

The death rate for children in Iraq has increased considerably since the Gulf war because of the coalition's aggression against Iraq, which has caused the destruction of health and education institutions. As a result, these institutions are paralysed and unable to carry out their normal functions.

The statistics recently issued by the Child Welfare Organization in Iraq show the following:

(a) An increase in the per-month deaths of children aged 5 years and over: 3,800 in August 1992, as against 2,289 in August 1991 and 712 in August 1990. The main cause of this tragedy is malnutrition and the severe shortage of vaccines and other medicaments.

(b) As a result of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq since August 1990, there were 61,442 deaths of children under 5 years of age during the period from August 1990 to August 1992.

(c) The total number of deaths among children aged 5 years and over totalled 6,362 per month in 1992, as against 4,872 in 1991 and 1,833 in 1990.

(d) Low birth weight occurred in more than 17.5 per cent of all newborns, while the percentage was 10.8 per cent in 1991 and 4.5 per cent in 1990. That reflects the impact of the absence of good nutrition essential for the welfare of pregnant women.

(e) The number of hospitals and health centres destroyed or damaged as a result of the coalition's aggression against Iraq was 41 hospitals and 20 health centres.

(f) The aggression against Iraq also caused the destruction of or damage to 57 social welfare establishments, including crèches, institutes for the disabled and State orphanages, and damage to 205 kindergartens and 1,767 primary schools.